CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

P.O. Box 419064, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9064



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CSSIN NO. 01-08

TO: ALL IV-D DIRECTORS
ALL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Reason for this Transmittal
[] State Law or Regulation
Change
[] Federal Law or Regulation
Change
[] Court Order or Settlement
Change
[] Clarification requested by
One or More Counties
[X] Initiated by DCSS

SUBJECT: PUBLIC LAW 104-133, THE DEBT COLLECTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1996

The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-133) requires most federal payments, including allotments, to be made by electronic fund transfer (EFT). Some Local Child Support Agencies (LCSA) have been notified by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) that effective February 2001, DFAS will have the capability to send payments using EFT. The letter informed LCSAs that they currently receive a US Treasury check, but that the transition plan to EFT will occur over the next nine months. Further, the letter warns that if banking information is not provided within the transition period, participation in the military allotment program cannot occur.

Staff from the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) spoke with the DFAS regarding this issue and determined that the DFAS was under the impression that all states had operating State Disbursement Units. Since the DFAS recognizes the importance of avoiding interruption of child support payments to families, they have assured us they will continue to send federal payments as they are currently doing until further notice from DCSS.

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If your LCSA received notification from DFAS directly regarding payments for non-custodial parents in your caseload, you need take no further action. Should you experience problems with the receipt of federal payments due to the implementation of EFT by the DFAS or if you have questions, please contact Tonya Comage of the Financial Management Unit at (916) 464-5224.

Sincerely,

CURTIS HOWARD
Assistant Deputy Director
Child Support Services Division